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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TRSY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:MARCH 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

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AT 3/21 BRIEFING, NESSEN SAID ADMIN HAS RENEWED CALL

FOR IMMEDIATE VN NEGOTIATIONS TO END FIGHTING, BUT HANOI HAS NOT RESPONDED. WHILE NOT BLAMING CONGRESS FOR SVN PULLBACK, NESSEN SAID INSUFFICIENT ARMS "CLEARLY A FACTOR" (BARNES, WSTAR 3/22). CORDDRY (SUN 3/22) QUOTES NESSEN THAT CAMBODIA ARMS, FUEL DELIVERIES WILL END IN ABOUT 3 WKS, WHILE SVN DELIVERIES WILL CONTINUE UNTIL JUNE 30, BUT AT 40-PCT OF NEEDS. GKR AMB UM SIM TOLD REPORTERS AID CUTOFF, AS PROPOSED IN SENATE, WOULD LEAD TO UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER. SECDEF DECLARED THAT AID CUTOFF WOULD BE "DEATH WARRANT," CONCEDED ASSESSMENTS HAD CHANGED AND NVA EXPECTED LAUNCH MAJOR OFFENSIVES; AND DOS' FUNSETH SAID HANOI OFFENSIVE HAS REACHED LEVEL OF TET '68 AND EASTER '72. CORDDRY SEES CONGRESS LARGELY UNMOVED BY PLEAS FOR MORE AID.

NESSEN BLAMES CONGRESS FOR SVN ARMS SHORTAGES (REUTER, NYT). ON CBS/TV'S "FACE THE NATION" SUNDAY, SAID SVN HAS SHOWN WILLINGNESS, STRENGTH TO FIGHT, BUT DEPENDS ON AMMO, FUEL

AND EQUIPMENT TO CARRY ON (REUTER, SUN; CSM). IN 3/23 PHILA BULLETIN, SECDEF SAID SEA LOSS WOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN WORLD MIL BALANCE AGAINST US, BUT INVOLVED IS TEST OF US "STEADFASTNESS" (CSM; REUTER, WP). CSM'S STROUT SEES CONGRESS "QUIETLY" VETOING PRES' FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN SEA, DIGGING IN ITS HEELS AGAINST FURTHER MIL AID TO SVN AND CAMBODIA. ON POSSIBILITY OF ME CONFLICT, STROUT BELIEVES CONGRESS RECOILS FROM FURTHER WAR ADVENTURES AFTER VN.

POPE VOICES ANGUISH OVER INDOCHINA ON EVE OF HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS (AP, PHINQ). CSM'S POND IN MOSCOW BELIEVES USSR "BASKING MODESTLY" IN SERIES OF FAVORABLE FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING ADVANCES IN INDOCHINA. QUOTES "PRAVDA" ARTICLE PLEDGING "ACTIVE SUPPORT" FOR SIHANOUK'S FRONT, PREVIOUSLY HELD AT ARM'S LENGTH BECAUSE OF PEKING TIES.

PRC, SOVIET, NVN LEADERS CONGRATULATE SIHANOUK ON 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRUNK FOUNDING, PLEDGE CONTINUED SUPPORT (WP). SIHANOUK TOASTED VICTORIES IN PEKING, UNCLASSIFIED

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DECLARED OPPOSED TO NEGOTIATIONS, COMPROMISES OR COALITION WITH GKR (UPI FROM HK, CHITRIB; AFP, PHINQ). SUN'S WU IN HK NOTES SIHANOUK'S REJECTION OF PEACE TALKS EVEN IF LONG BORET SHUFFLES CABINET AND LON NOL BOWS OUT. NCNA QUOTED PRINCE THAT NEW PP CABINET COMPRISES "FASCIST TRAITORS" HANG THUN HAK, PAN SOTHI AND SAK SUTSAKHAN. SIHANOUK ALSO REJECTED NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH US.

AIRLIFT SUSPENDED AFTER DC-8 DISABLED AT PP AND C-130 DAMAGED BY ROCKET FIRE (UPI, NYDN); REPAIRED, TOOK OFF FROM POCHENTONG (AP, SUN). AUTHORITATIVE PP SOURCES SAID AIRLIFT WILL NOT RESTART UNTIL TUESDAY BECAUSE SECURITY CONDITIONS "INSUFFICIENT" (AFP, PHINQ). NYT'S ANDELMAN IN PP REPORTS AIRLIFT SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY UNTIL MIL SITUATION NEAR AIRPORT IMPROVES, MENTIONS MULTI-BRIGADE OPERATION IN ROCKET BELT NE OF TUOL LEAP EXPECTED START SOON. DESCRIBES RECENT EVENTS IN AIRLIFT OPERATIONS, POINTS OUT EMBASSY REFUSAL DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS PARACHUTING IN SUPPLIES OR USE OF USAF PLANES. UPI PP (3/24) QUOTES US OFFICIALS THAT AIRLIFT REOPENED AS "CALCULATED RISK."

FIGHTING CONTINUES ON MEKONG E BANK. FANK ABANDONS MEKONG ISLAND NEAR NEAK LUONG. REBELS PRESS FANK IN ROCKET BELT NEAR AIRPORT, AND ROCKETS HIT PP. SHELLING, GROUND ATTACKS REPORTED NEAR KOMPONG CHAM, SIEM REAP,

KAMPOT, BATTAMBANG (UPI, NYDN; WP; AP, SUN; ANDELMAN, NYT).

LAT'S LESLIE AT PP (3/21) BELIEVES THREATENED END OF US AID FINALLY REGISTERING WITH SOME CAMBODIANS, WITH PRESS FINALLY DISCUSSING STORY. NOTES ONE PAPER SUGGESTS IF AID CUT OFF, GKR SHOULD BREAK RELATIONS WITH US, SEEK HELP FROM USSR -- WHICH MIGHT HELP SINCE "FIGHTING" WITH PRC. THINKS PRESS MAY REFLECT GKR ATTITUDES. SEES PP PAPERS BECOMING ANTI-US FIRST TIME SINCE MARCH, 1970, WHILE SOME STUDENTS OPPOSE MORE US AID. FOREIGN OBSERVERS FEAR ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS IF CONGRESS CUTS OFF AID, BUT LESLIE OPINES DECISION WOULD TAKE WHILE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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SINK IN. INSURGENTS MAY WAIT TO SEE IMPACT IF AID STOPPED. POINTS OUT POLITICAL INFIGHTING HAS DELAYED FORMATION OF NEW CABINET, BUT "ALMOST TAKEN FOR GRANTED" THAT CHANGES WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMPACT.

IN SPEECH MARKING 25 ANNIVERSARY OF LAOS' ARMED FORCES, SOUVANNA HOPEFUL HIS THIRD - AND POSSIBLY LAST - ATTEMPT BRING NATL UNITY WILL SUCCEED BEFORE HE DIES; URGED RIGHTISTS, PL FORGIVE, FORGET (AFP, PHINQ).

DOD OFFICIALS SAY AMB MARTIN'S CONTINUED ABSENCE FROM VN SOLELY DUE HEALTH REASONS, DOES NOT PORTEND CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARD THIEU. MARTIN REPORTEDLY IN NC RECOVERING FROM ORAL SURGERY AND PHYSICIAN

ORDERED HIM NOT FLY FOR ANOTHER WEEK (NYT SPECIAL).

NYT'S MIDDLETON FINDS US EXPERTS GLUM ON VN WAR. QUOTES REPORTS COMMUNISTS SURPRISED BY SPEED OF INITIAL ADVANCES, BUT NOW MEETING STRONGER OPPOSITION IN CENTER AND SOUTH. CONTINUED INACTIVITY OF ARVN FORCES IN SOUTH DESPITE ENEMY PROBING PUZZLES US SOURCES (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN SAIGON FINDS VN MAP BEING REDRAWN DAILY AS FANK RETREATS. BELIEVES MANY CIVILIANS WHO FOLLOWED TROOPS OUT PAYING TRAGIC PRICE. EXODUS, FROM HIGHLANDS MAINLY COMPOSED OF ETHNIC VIETS, NOT MONTAGNARDS; LATTER ATTACHED TO MOUNTAINS, ABHOR COAST. SUN'S ISAACS IN SAIGON BELIEVES SKY FALLING WITH STUNNING SWIFTNESS. SPEED, SHARPNESS OF CHANGE LEAVES MANY VIETS, AMERICANS IN STATE OF SHOCK. THIEU'S MOTIVES NOT YET FULLY EXPLAINED, THOUGH MAY INVOLVE PRESERVING MIL UNITS AND DEFENDING POPULOUS AREAS. MOVE HAS OBVIOUS RISKS, AND SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON THIEU'S ABILITY STOP UNRAVELLING WHERE HE WANTS. SEES GRIM FUTURE FOR REFUGEE HORDES IN FACE OF BAD ECON

SITUATION (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

SUN'S TREWHITT DESCRIBES WASHINGTON ADJUSTING TO "NEW BALL GAME" AS VN WAR STRATEGIC NATURE ALTERS. BELIEVES UNCLASSIFIED

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GVN COLLAPSE WILL FOLLOW AID TERMINATION IN MATTER OF MONTHS (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

VC ISSUE VICTORY PROCLAMATION, ASK FOREIGN AID TO FEED OVER MILLION IN HIGHLANDS. CALL FOR THIEU OUSTER AND REPLACEMENT WITH "POPULAR, DEMOCRATIC" GOVT (UPI TOKYO, NYT; CHITRIB).

CSM FROM DANANG NOTES GVN HOPES MOVE REFUGEE HORDES SOUTH BY SEA, HAS ISSUED CALL TO MANY COUNTRIES FOR HELP. AP (PHINQ) DESCRIBES DEPLORABLE REFUGEE SITUATION AT TUY HOA.

VN QUEEN MOTHER MISSING AS COMMUNISTS CLOSE IN ON HUE (UPI, NYDN; WP; AP SUN, NYT; CHITRIB). HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES THROUGHOUT SVN WITH HWAY 1 CUT BELOW HUE, RETREAT STILL IN PROGRESS FROM PLEIKU, KONTUM AND PHU BON, AND VNAF HITTING COMMUNISTS IN KHANH HOA PROV (UPI, NYDN). GVN SENT TWO COPTERS TO EVACUATE QUEEN MOTHER, BUT FORMER QUEEN DISAPPEARED 3 DAYS EARLIER, POSSIBLY ON ROAD TO DA NANG (AP NYT, SUN; CHITRIB). TAYNINH BELIEVED NEXT TARGET OF COMMUNIST

OFFENSIVE (WP). NVA CAPTURED 9TH PROV, QUANG DUC
(AP, SUN).

WP'S OBERDORFER AT HUE DESCRIBES ARVN PREPARING FOR
BATTLE AS NVA NOOSE TIGHTENS AROUND CITY. SEES BIG
BATTLE NOW UNDER WAY. NOTES COMMUNISTS APPARENTLY
TRY NOT HIT CIVILIANS. FINDS SITUATION SADDENING
AND HARROWING EXPERIENCE.

NYT'S WEINRAUB IN SAIGON DESCRIBES RECENT NVA ACTION IN
NORTHERN PROVS THAT ALL BUT ENGULFS THUA THIEN. IN
CAPITAL, FEELING GROWING AMONG OFFICIALS AND WESTERN
DIPLOMATS THAT SVN FACES LEADERSHIP CRISIS POTENTIALLY
MORE DANGEROUS THAN COMMUNIST ADVANCE. NOTES CLASHES
NEAR SAIGON, TAY NINH, BATTLE FOR HUE. SAYS SOME
WORRY ABOUT ATTACK ON SAIGON, AS COMMUNIST DEMOLITION
UNITS REPORTED IN SUBURBS AND RECENT DAYLIGHT AMBUSHES
SPRUNG NEARBY. CONSIDERS THESE, COUPLED WITH TROOP
MOVEMENTS, OMINOUS SIGNS. REPORTS SOME US OFFICIALS
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EXPECT WAVE OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN
BUILDING IN SAIGON PRESS, MAY POSSIBLY BECOME VIOLENT
AS COMMUNISTS SURGE TOWARD CITY.

2. JAPAN

CSM (TOKYO) CITES FISHERIES AGENCY SPOKESMAN THAT
SOVIET FISHING FLEET HAS CAUSED MORE THAN MILLION DOLS
DAMAGE TO NETS, OTHER GEAR OFF JAPAN'S COST THIS YEAR.
NOTES SPECULATION OPERATIONS OFF COAST FROM HOKKAIDO
SOUTH PAST TOKYO MAY BE WARNING JAPAN MUST LET SOVIET
FISHERMEN OPERATE NEAR JAPAN IF JAPANESE WISH CONTINUE
FISHING OFF SOVIET COASTAL AREAS.

JOC (TOKYO) CITES JAPAN AUTO MFRS ASSN PRES TOYOTA,
THAT JFY 75 PRODUCTION EXPECTED DECLINE SLIGHTLY
FOLLOWING 7.5 PERCENT DECLINE LAST FY.

WSJ'S PEARLSTINE IN TOKYO DESCRIBES "BIGGEST CORPORATE
RESCUE EFFORT" TO BAIL OUT BACK-TO-WALL ROTARY ENGINE
CAR MAKER TOYO KOGYO. NOTES ONE MAGAZINE WRITES IF
WORST BEFELL FIRM, WOULD BE "LIKE SECOND ATOMIC BOMB
FOR HIROSHIMA" PLANT SITE. CITES BOSTON CONSULTING
CORP'S ABEGGLEN THAT MORE AT STAKE THAN TOYO KOGYO GIVEN
"INCESTUOUS RELATIONS" AMONG MOST BIG BUSINESS FIRMS:
COLLAPSE OF ONE COULD TOUCH OFF COLLAPSE OF OTHERS, AND
"MUCH MORE THAN TOYO KOGYO IS AT STAKE." SAYS SUMITOMO
BANK CHAIRMAN HOTTA FILLING LEADERSHIP GAP, TRYING
FIRST EASE SEVERE CASH FLOW PROBLEM WITH LOANS, PUSHING

FLEET PURCHASES OF MAZDA, SELLING OFF SOME REAL ESTATE,
BUT NOT LAYING OFF EMPLOYEES AS IN US

PEARLSTINE ALSO NOTES FALTERING ECONOMY WEAKENS WORKERS'
SPRING WAGE DEMANDS. UNIONS ASKING 25-30 PERCENT, BUT
ECONOMISTS PREDICT BIG FIRMS WON'T AGREE TO RAISES
ABOVE 17-23 PERCENT RANGE, AS GOJ URGES WORKERS ACCEPT
15 PERCENT, OR LESS.

AP (TOKYO) RECOUNTS CAMPAIGNS BY PINK-HELMETED CHUPIREN,
NEWEST, MOST RADICAL WOMEN'S LIBERATION GROUP IN NATION
WHERE MOVEMENT SMALL, FRAGMENTED: LEGALIZATION OF PILL,
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OPPOSITION TO ABORTION RESTRICTIONS, DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST HIRING DIVORCED WOMEN (WSTAR 3/22).

CARMEAN IN CAPE COD (MASS.) STANDARD TIMES (MAR 8)
INTERVIEWS NY-BASED ASAHI CORRESPONDENT ARIYOSHI, IN
WOODS HOLE FOR BACKGROUND IN CASE EMPEROR "DECIDES TO
VISIT" MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

3. KOREA

WP'S SARAH CONROY (MAR 23) DESCRIBES HOME, FURNISHINGS
OF "MALE PERLE MESTA...KOREAN MYSTERY MAN" TONG SUN

PARK, "ONE OF MORE ACCOMPLISHED USERS OF INFLUENCE"
WHOSE ROLE IN HELPING DIVERT RICE SURPLUS TO FOOD
FOR PEACE PROGRAMS TAKEN UP IN PRESS RECENTLY AS
POSSIBLY CAUSING HIGHER PRICES IN US.

4. THAILAND

CSM (BANGKOK) CITES BANGKOK POST REPORT POLICE ALERTED
BORDER UNITS TO WATCH FOR 3,000 CHINESE-TRAINED
INSURGENTS MOVING ACROSS LAOTIAN FRONTIER INTO N
THAILAND; MOVE POSSIBLY START OF MAJOR COMMUNIST
OFFENSIVE.

5. BURMA

MIL OFFICIALS SAY GUB TROOPS CRUSHED 27-YEAR-OLD
FOREIGN-INSPIRED COMMUNIST INSURGENCY, KILLED LEADER
CP CHAIRMAN THAKIN ZIN, AND SECY PHAKIN CHIT IN ATTACK
ON CP HQ IN PEGU YOMA HILLS MAR 15. SPOKESMAN TOLD
PRESS VICTORY WON WITHOUT FOREIGN HELP (WP MAR 22).

6. FRENCH POLYNESIA

AFP (PAPEETE) NOTES GOF SECRETARY OF O'SEAS TERRITORIES
STIRN SAYS ON ARRIVAL UTUROR "POLYNESIA WILL REMAIN
FRENCH," FRANCE RESPECTS POLYNESIAN PERSONALITY AND
CULTURE (WP).

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COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. INDOCHINA

WSTAR (EDITS EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE) WARNS
CONGRESS WOULD BEAR FULL BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY
FOR "ACT OF SHAMEFUL BETRAYAL" OF GVN IN CUTTING OFF
AID NOW (MAR 23); ALSO INDICTS HANOI'S HANDLING OF
INFO ABOUT US MIAS (MAR 22).

NYT REJECTS "DISTORTED" VIEW OF SVN'S DEFENSE BEING
TAKEN BY SCHLESINGER ON ONE SIDE, AND THOSE ON OTHER
WHO WOULD INSTANTLY END US AID. URGES ADMIN PROVIDE
PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT AID TO GVN WILL BE FORTHCOMING
ONLY WITHIN CONTINUING PROCESS OF PHASING OUT US MIL
SUBSIDIES (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT'S LEWIS RAPS "MYTH" THAT US HAS BEEN "NIGGARDLY"
TO GVN. CLAIMS HAK KNEW WELL WHEN C-F NEGOTIATED
THAT TERMS SETTLED ONLY US WITHDRAWAL (EXCERPTED IN
USIA WIRELESS FILE).

CBS'S MARVIN KALB (MAR 22) THINKS NVIETS SENSED THREE
THINGS AT LEAST -- THAT THIEU REGIME HAD NO INTENTION
FORMING TRIPARTITE COALITION GOVT; THAT PP GOVT WAS
CORRUPT, ITS DAYS NUMBERED; AND THAT US TOO UPROOTED,
DISTURBED TO INTERVENE AGAIN IN INDOCHINA. APPARENTLY
HANOI DECIDED GO FOR BROKE ON ASSUMPTION IT COULD DO
SO ON THE CHEAP, AND "IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THAT ASSUMPTION
WAS VALID." SAYS HAK "SEEMS AMAZED" PP HASN'T COLLAPSED
ALREADY. IN "VERY IRONIC WAY" INDOCHINA COMMUNIST
DRIVE COINCIDES WITH SECRETARY'S SHUTTLE NEGOTIATION
IN ME; AND HAK SUSPECTS INDOCHINA EVENTS WILL CAST
LONG, NEGATIVE SHADOW OVER ME: ISRAELIS NOW QUESTION
DURABILITY OF US COMMITMENTS, WHILE ARABS HAVE NOTION
US IF TIRING OF SUPPORTING SVN/CAMBODIA, WILL EVENTUALLY
TIRE OF SUPPORTING ISRAELI. KALB CITES "OBVIOUS
EXAGGERATION" ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS ARGUMENT; BUT,
"LOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO ONE SIDE," CONTENTS INDOCHINA
PARALLEL HAUNTS EVERYONE IN ME NEGOTIATIONS, MAKING
THEM MUCH MORE COMPLICATED.

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KNIGHT NEWS' MILLER IN WASHINGTON (GLOBE 3/23) STATES ADMIN FAILING IN ATTEMPT TO PLACE BLAME ON CONGRESS FOR POSSIBLE MILITARY DISASTER OF ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES IN INDOCHINA. NOTES POLLS, RANDOM INTERVIEWS INDICATE CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO AID REQUEST MUCH MORE IN TUNE WITH MOOD OF PEOPLE THAN FORD PLEA FOR MORE MONEY.

MCCARTNEY IN GLOBE (3/23) PERCEIVES SUN SETTING ON US PRESENCE IN SEA, JUST AS FOR FRANCE IN ALGERIA, DUTCH IN INDONESIA, UK IN ME. SVN, CAMBODIA TEETERING, THAILAND LOOKS OVER SHOULDER AND ASKS US WITHDRAW, WHILE CONGRESS ARGUES, IN EFFECT, LET INDOCHINA GO. QUOTES DEGAULLE 1961 ADVICE TO JFK THAT US WANTS TAKE OVER WHERE FRANCE LEFT OFF, BUT WOULD SINK INTO BOTTOMLESS MILITARY, POLITICAL QUAGMIRE IF IT DID. AFTER INTERVENING DEVELOPMENTS PROVED ADVICE CORRECT NOW FINDS US INVOLVEMENT ITSELF HAS CREATED FORD, HAK COMMITMENT ON WHICH CREDIBILITY OF US WORD TO ALLIES RESTS. BUT CITES SFRC'S VN EXPERT MOOSE THAT "EVERY-BODY HAS BEEN WRONG" ABOUT VN.

BALT SUN (3/23) CALLS FOR LARGE SCALE HUMANITARIAN AID FOR INDOCHINA TO HELP PEOPLE THERE, AND SHOW WORLD OUR CONTINUING INTEREST (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT (3/23) DISCUSSES REFUGEES IN VN TRYING ESCAPE WAR AND UNKNOWN FATE AT HANDS OF COMMUNISTS AND SAYS AID TO VN SHOULD BE PHASED DOWN BUT NOT SUDDENLY TERMINATED (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT IN CSM DISCUSSES THREE PROBLEMS FOR HAK: MID EAST; SEASIA AND NATO. QUOTES NESSON AS SAYING THERE WILL HAVE TO BE RESTUDY OF US FOREIGN POLICY IF CAMBODIA AND VN FALL (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

HENRY TREWITT IN SUN DISCUSSES DOMINOS AS SEEN BY IKE AND FORD. BOTH CONFIDENCE IN US AND UNQUESTIONABLE EFFECT OF FALL OF ONE COUNTRY ON OTHERS ARE THE ESSENCE OF THE THEORY, WHICH IS ALIVE AND WELL IN SEASIA.

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MIDDLETON (NYT) NOTES SVN HAS MADE NO MAJOR COUNTERATTACKS AGAINST NVA, QUOTES US MIL SOURCES THAT DELAY ALLOWS COMMUNISTS TO REINFORCE COLUMNS BUT COUNTERSTROKE

COULD CHECK OFFENSIVE AND RAISE ARVN MORALE.

CHITRIB'S STARR SEES DE FACTO CONTROL OF WAR PASSING FROM WASHINGTON TO SAIGON WITH RECENT EVENTS, AS FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF WAR CHANGES. ANALYSTS EXPECT NVA TO ESTABLISH HQ IN SVN, POSSIBLY AT HUE, AND DEFEND TERRITORY WITH ARTILLERY, AIR AND TANK TACTICS. DOS OFFICIALS WORK TO DEVELOP MAJOR NEW US POLICY POSITION BECAUSE SITUATION RENDERS C-F USELESS. NOTES NO CONFIDENCE IN WASHINGTON THAT THIEU'S SURRENDER OF NORTHERN PROVS WILL STRENGTHEN ABILITY TO DEFEND REMAINDER OF COUNTRY.

NYT'S BROWNE IN SAIGON BELIEVES OFFENSIVE SPURS LEADERSHIP CRISIS IN SVN, THOUGH CONSIDERS CHANCE OF COUP REMOTE IN FACE OF GREAT NATIONAL DIFFICULTIES. NOTES VIETS STUNNED BY DEVELOPMENTS, WITH RCS AND N VIETS WHO CAME SOUTH IN 1954 MOST WORRIED. SAYS MANY OFFICERS THINK COLLAPSE IMMINENT, THOUGH THIEU MOVE TO PULL OUT OF HIGHLANDS PROVS MILITARILY SOUND IF PSYCHOLOGICALLY STAGGERING. MIL SOURCES SAY SOME HARD-LINERS WANT CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP WITH RESOLVE TO FIGHT FOR EVERY INCH OF LAND, WHILE OTHERS MAY WANT GOVT HEADED BY BIG MINH TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH NVN.

NYDN'S OSTER REVIEWS "HEARTS AND MINDS," FINDS IT BRAVE, INVENTIVE, IMPORTANT FILM THOUGH POWER UNDERMINED BY CLEVERNESS; GIVES IT 3-1/2 STARS. CANBY (NYT) FINDS IT STUDY OF POWER THAT DOES MORE THAN PREACH TO COMMITTED IN POINTING OUT THAT LACK OF PERSPECTIVE AND MODESTY CAN BE CLOSE TO FATAL (USIA WIRELESS FILE).

GOODMAN (NYT 3/23) DISCUSSES "FALSE ART OF THE PROPAGANDA FILM," THAT OFTEN SENDS MESSAGES THEIR CREATORS DO NOT INTEND. MENTIONS SHIRLEY MACLAINE'S MOVIE ON CHINA,

JANE FONDA'S ON NVN, AND "HEARTS AND MINDS." FINDS FIRST "GOOD-HUMORED, SAPPY SORT OF TRAVELOGUE" WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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MOST INSTRUCTIVE SCENE WHEN US WOMEN FIND THAT "LIBERATION" TO CHINESE WOMEN MEANS MARRYING MAN WITH CORRECT POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND THEN TAKING JOB SPECIFIED BY STATE. NOTES MACLAINE, WHO WOULD BE AGHAST AT ATTEMPTED "PROGRAMMING" OF CHILDREN IF IT WERE DONE IN US, CONSIDERS IT ACHIEVEMENT IN PRC. ON FONDA FILM, GOODMAN SAYS IT LEAVES NO DOUBTS THAT JANE ACTING AS PUBLICIST FOR NVN, THOUGH "REFRESHING" IN SENSE THAT IT MAKES NO PRETENSE TO CRITICAL JUDGMENT. CONSIDERS IT REVELATION TO OBSERVE HOW SUBDUED US FIREBRANDS BECOME WHEN IN CONGENIAL

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